

NOTE

Confirmation of the Presence of *Amblyomma ovale* Koch 1844 and First Records of *Amblyomma scalpturatum* Neumann 1906 (Acari: Ixodida: Ixodidae) in the Amazonian Region of Ecuador

The senior author visited the Centro de Rescate Amazonico (01°05'S, 77°32'W), Napo Province, in the Amazonian region of Ecuador in February, 2002. The following species of vertebrates were inspected repeatedly for ticks during that month: domestic dog (Carnivora: Canidae); *Nasua nasua* (L. 1766) (Carnivora: Procyonidae); *Tapirus terrestris* (L. 1758) (Perissodactyla: Tapiridae); monkeys (Primates: Cebidae), *Saimiri sciureus* (L. 1758), *Cebus capucinus* (L. 1758) and *Lagothrix lagotricha* (Humboldt 1812). Tick specimens obtained were preserved in 70% ethanol and deposited in the Tick Collection of Estación Experimental Agropecuaria Rafaela, Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria, Rafaela, Santa Fé, Argentina (INTA).

No ticks were found on monkeys. A nymph of *Amblyomma* spp. was found on a *N. nasua* (INTA N° 1727). *Amblyomma ovale* Koch 1844 was collected from dogs, tapirs and also a human, and *Amblyomma scalpturatum* Neumann 1906 was found on a tapir (Table 1). *Amblyomma ovale* was identified according to Aragão and Fonseca (1961b), and *A. scalpturatum* following Boero and Prosen (1960). One of us (JEK) searched the U. S. National Tick Collection for additional specimens of both tick species from Ecuador. The search yielded several records, all from the Amazonian region of Ecuador (Table 1).

Amblyomma ovale is widespread in the Neotropical Region, reaching the southern Nearctic (Guglielmone et al., in press). However, its presence in Ecuador has been documented only twice. Becklund (1968) found a specimen on an ocelot imported to U.S.A. from Ecuador, and Guglielmone et al. (in press) cites its presence in the coun-

try. Adults of this tick species primarily infest carnivores, but findings on tapir and man are not infrequent (Guglielmone et al., in press), as reflected in the records from Ecuador.

Amblyomma scalpturatum is usually found on tapirs and to a lesser extent on anteaters and dogs in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela (Jones et al. 1972). Evidentially, *A. scalpturatum* can occasionally parasitize humans (Aragão and Fonseca 1961a). These are the first records of *A. scalpturatum* from Ecuador, and expand the known distribution of this poorly known tick species.

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Table 1. *Amblyomma ovale* and *Amblyomma scalpturatum* from the Amazonian region of Ecuador at INTA Tick Collection (Rafaela, Argentina) and U. S. National Tick Collection (USNTC) (Statesboro, GA, U.S.A.).

Tick Sex	N	Host	Province	Locality	Coordinates	Date	Collector
<i>A. ovale</i> INTA							
1♂ 1♀	1816	dog	Napo	CRA*	01°05'S 77°32'W	Feb 20, 2002	C. Zerpa
1♂	1817	dog	Napo	CRA	01°05'S 77°32'W	Feb 11, 2002	C. Zerpa
1♂	1819	dog	Napo	CRA	01°05'S 77°32'W	Feb 8, 2002	C. Zerpa
1♂	1820	dog	Napo	CRA	01°05'S 77°32'W	Feb 17, 2002	C. Zerpa
3♂ 1♀	1821	dog	Napo	CRA	01°05'S 77°32'W	Feb 2002	C. Zerpa
1♂	1822	dog	Napo	CRA	01°05'S 77°32'W	Feb 9, 2002	C. Zerpa
1♀	1823	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>	Napo	CRA	01°05'S 77°32'W	Feb 2002	C. Zerpa
1♀	1825	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>	Napo	CRA	01°05'S 77°32'W	Feb 12, 2002	C. Zerpa
1♀	1826	human	Napo	CRA	01°05'S 77°32'W	Feb 8, 2002	C. Zerpa
<i>A. ovale</i> USNTC							
1♂ 1♀	RML64445	tapir	Sucumbios	Tarapoa	00°07'S 76°25'W	May 25, 1974	D.J. Pletsch
1♂	RML65433	human	Sucumbios	Lumbaqui	00°03'N 77°20'W	Feb 20, 1975	T. Monath
1♀	RML66535	tapir	Sucumbios	Tarapoa	00°07'S 76°25'W	May 25, 1974	D.J. Pletsch
1♂	RML117072	dog	Napo	Zancudo	00°35'S 75°29'W	Oct 29, 1983	R.M. Timm
3♂ 1♀	RML117073	dog	Napo	San José de Payamino	00°30'S 77°19'W	Nov 21, 1983	R.M. Timm
2♂ 1♀	RML117074	dog	Napo	San José de Payamino	00°30'S 77°19'W	Nov 21, 1983	R.M. Timm
1♂	RML117075	human	Sucumbios	Laguna Grande	00°00' 76°11'W	Sept 30, 1983	R.M. Timm
1♂	RML117076	human	Napo	Zancudo	00°35'S 75°29'W	Oct 26, 1983	R.M. Timm
<i>A. scalpturatum</i> INTA							
1♂	1824	<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>	Napo	CRA	01°05'S 77°32'W	Feb 2002	C. Zerpa
<i>A. scalpturatum</i> USNTC							
8♂ 3♀	RML64445	tapir	Sucumbios	Tarapoa	00°07'S 76°25'W	May 25, 1974	D.J. Pletsch
4♂ 4♀	RML66535	tapir	Sucumbios	Tarapoa	00°07'S 76°25'W	May 25, 1974	D.J. Pletsch

* CRA = Centro Rescate Amazonico.

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